

# St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

4th SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME

# NEWSLETTER

## Candlemas and Preparing for Lent



St Mary of the Annunciation  
Catholic Church

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*Served by the Rosminians*

**Parish Priest**

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

**On attachment**

Fr David Jones, OLV

**Safeguarding Rep**

Jane Monaghan  
01509 262123

**Parish Catholic Schools**

**St Mary's Primary**

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Loughborough LE11 5AX  
01509 212621  
office@stmarys-rc.leics.sch.uk  
**Headteacher:** Miss P Jordan

**De Lisle College**

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Loughborough LE11 4SQ  
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**Headteacher:** Mr C Maher

**T**his Monday (2nd February), we celebrate **Candlemas** or the Feast of the **Presentation of the Lord in the Temple**, and also the **Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary**, bringing to a conclusion the greater season of Christmastide. It is a very beautiful feast - rich in meaning and symbolism, and one that often gets overlooked, unless it happens to fall on a Sunday. Mary and Joseph, **forty days after Our Lord's birth**, in accordance with the Law of Moses, took the Child JESUS to the Temple to offer Him to the Lord. *"The Lord said to Moses, 'Consecrate to Me all the first born, whatever is the first to open the womb among the Israelites of man and beast is Mine'"* (Exodus 13:1-2). And **Simeon** recognises the Child for Who He truly is: *"a light to enlighten the Gentiles."* Hence the **blessing of candles** on this Feast. At one time the candles for the entire year would be blessed on this day. The **Procession** which follows reminds us that our faith is not something we just keep to ourselves, but something we carry and **walk** with. Blessed candles are also a **sacramental**, and when used with faith, having them in your home can drive away the forces of evil, and bring you grace and comfort in times of distress or sickness. If you wish have to have candles blessed on this Feast, please bring them to the sacristy before Mass begins.

**S**eptuagesima: Now, going back a day, this Sunday (1st February), in the **traditional Roman Calendar**, would be **Septuagesima Sunday**. Most Catholics today have probably never have heard of Septuagesima, but if you regularly attend the Wednesday Latin Mass, you would have come across it. Septuagesima ('seventieth' in Latin and roughly seventy days before Easter), **is a warning to us that Lent is approaching**. Purple vestments appear, the Gloria goes, the Alleluia is buried (quite literally in some places), and the Church is gently telling us, **"Lent is just around the corner – don't let it take you by surprise!"** Now most of us are not very good at sudden spiritual gear-changes, and so going straight from ordinary life into fasting and ashes is not easy. Septuagesima is designed to ease us into Lent.

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*St Blaise*

**Please pray for those who are sick**

**for those who have recently died:**

Mark Walsh  
*May he rest in peace*

**and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:**

David Hibbin  
Hugh Mead  
Patricia Dorsey  
Marta Moson  
Czeslaw Szychowski

### PLEASE NOTE

Due to government regulations regarding personal data (UK-GDPR), we are not able to publish name details of Mass intentions for the living in this online version of the newsletter.

## MASS INTENTIONS AT ST MARY'S

<b>Sat 31st</b> <i>6.00pm</i>	<b>Vigil Mass</b> Antoni Zielinski (RIP)
<b>Sun 1st</b> <i>9.00am</i> <i>11.15am</i> <i>4.00pm</i>	<b>Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> For the Parish Marta Moson (RIP) Italian Mass
<b>Mon 2nd</b> <i>9.15am</i> <i>6.30pm</i>	<b>The Presentation of the Lord (Feast)</b> Vera Hurry (RIP) <i>School Mass</i> Vocations to the Priesthood & religious life
<b>Tues 3rd</b> <i>9.15am</i>	<b>St Blaise, Bishop &amp; Martyr</b> Mary John Nedumakal (RIP, Anniversary)
<b>Weds 4th</b> <i>6.30pm</i>	<b>St Andrew Corsini, Bishop &amp; Confessor</b> George Houston (RIP) (Latin)
<b>Thurs 5th</b> <i>9.15am</i>	<b>St Agatha, Virgin &amp; Martyr</b> Vittorio Giorgio (RIP)
<b>Fri 6th</b> <i>6.00-6.25pm</i> <i>6.30pm</i>	<b>Ss Paul Miki &amp; Companions, Martyrs</b> <i>First Friday</i> <i>Confessions</i> For our Deceased Relatives & Friends <i>Followed by Benediction</i>
<b>Sat 7th</b> <i>10.00am</i> <i>10.30am</i> <i>-12.30pm</i> <i>6.00pm</i>	<b>Saturday Mass of the BVM</b> <i>Five First Saturdays Dev'n</i> Felicidad Menzie (RIP) <i>Private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Confessions 10.30-11.30am &amp; Benediction 12.20pm</i> <b>Vigil Mass:</b> For the Parish
<b>Sun 8th</b> <i>9.00am</i> <i>11.15am</i> <i>2.30pm</i> <i>4.00pm</i>	<b>Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Deceased of the Monaghan & Kenyon families Giovanni Palmieri (RIP) <i>Baptism: Dylan Williams</i> Italian Mass
<b>Rosary</b>	<i>Mon, Tues, Thurs after 9.15am Mass; Wed, Fri at 6.00pm; First Saturday of each month after 10.00am Mass</i>
<b>THIS WEEK AT ST MARY'S</b>	
<b>Mon 2nd</b>	First Confession Class: 4.15pm in the hall
<b>Mon 2nd</b>	SPUC branch meeting: 7.30pm in the hall.
<b>Tues 3rd</b>	Bible study: 7.00pm in the parish library

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This year, **Ash Wednesday** (the first day of Lent) falls on **18th February**, but even though Septuagesima is no longer universally observed, there is nothing to stop us from using this time well. It's the time to examine our habits and attachments and habits of sin. It's the time to ask ourselves, **"What do I need to change in my life? What might God be asking me to give up, or take up this year?"** It is, I would suggest, the time to begin restraining our appetites a little, and if necessary, re-establish our daily prayer routine, begin doing some extra acts of charity, or even getting up a bit earlier to allow some extra time with God before going to our places of work or study. **This requires a bit of discipline, but if we make this preparation, our Lent will be more fruitful.** If we leave it until Ash Wednesday to think about these things, we're not going to get off to a good start.

So, don't let Lent take you by surprise. **It's a season of grace**, and by using this pre-Lent time well, we will allow God to work more deeply in our souls.

*Fr Paul Gillham, IC*

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**Tomorrow (Monday), is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, or Candlemas**, and the traditional end of Christmastide. Masses will be at 9.15am and 6.30pm. The evening Mass will be Solemn, by candlelight and with a procession. It is not a Holyday of Obligation.

**Tuesday is the Feast of St Blaise**, the patron saint of throats, and throats will be blessed after Masses on both Monday and Tuesday.

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**The Nottingham 40 Days for Life, Praying for an end to abortion, runs between Wednesday 18th February and Sunday 29th March.** During these 40 days of Lent pro-lifers will be: praying for an end to abortion in our community near the main abortion clinic in Nottinghamshire; offering peaceful witness to God's love and the possibility of healing; offering practical, non-judgemental help to women who may want to consider an alternative to abortion, and offering support for post-abortive women. More information is at [www.40daysforlife.com/nottingham](http://www.40daysforlife.com/nottingham) or contact [40daysforlifennotts@gmail.com](mailto:40daysforlifennotts@gmail.com)

### **Gregorian Chant Workshop, Saturday 14th February, 10am-4pm:**

St Mary's choir are hosting a Gregorian Chant workshop here at St Mary's. It will be led by Gregory Treloar, previously Diocesan Director of Music, looking at the basics of notation and learning a variety of chants for parish use. The day will finish with a Sung Vespers at 3.30pm. Singers from across the diocese are welcome to sign up and join the choir for the day, for which there is a suggested donation of £10. Please bring your own lunch.

For more information, or to register for the day, please contact Martins: [martinsobi19@gmail.com](mailto:martinsobi19@gmail.com).

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**Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion Renewal Day 2026: St Joseph's Catholic Church, Leicester, 28th March 2026, 10:30am to 3:30pm.** Full details from Bernard Monaghan: [bernard.p.monaghan@btinternet.com](mailto:bernard.p.monaghan@btinternet.com)

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**Please note there will be NO Catch Up Cafe meeting this week as there is no organiser available**

## Prayer for vocations to the priesthood and religious life

- Leader:** Please kneel for our prayer for vocations. Let us ask God to give worthy Priests to His Holy Church and Brothers and Sisters to Religious Orders.
- All:** O God, we earnestly beseech You to bless this diocese with many priests, brothers and sisters, who will gladly spend their entire lives serving Your Church and making You known and loved.
- Leader:** Bless our families. Bless our children.
- All:** Choose from our homes those who are needed for Your work.
- Leader:** Mary, Queen of the Clergy!
- All:** Pray for us. Pray for our priests and religious. Obtain for us many more. Amen.
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## Prayer to Saint Michael

Holy Michael, the Archangel, defend us in the day of battle. Be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God thrust down to hell Satan and all the wicked spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls. Amen.

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**Tuesday is the Feast of St Blaise, the 4th century Bishop of Sebastea which is modern day Armenia.** During the Diocletian persecution of Christians, Bishop Blaise was sent to prison, and eventually martyred, for his refusal to deny Christ. On the way to prison he was passed by a mother whose son was choking on a fish bone. Blaise blessed the boy, enabling him to cough up the bone, and thus his throat was healed. It is for this reason we bless throats on his feast day and invoke his intercession against diseases and harm to the throat. The custom of blessing throats on his feast was brought to England by the Rosminian Fathers in the 19th century. No doubt Loughborough was one of the first places in which these blessings took place.

*Fr Paul*

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**Serving the Lord:** We are a small friendly team who regularly clean the church on Friday mornings. We are desperately looking for more volunteers to help us. Cleaning takes place from 9.30am; if you can spare a little time, please talk to Emily or Elvira, or sign up on the cleaning volunteer sheet at the repository. Thank you

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## From the Saints

*"The blessed candle with its light and warmth, signifies the divine wisdom of Christ and the charity with which He illumines and inflames our souls."*

St Thomas Aquinas (ca 1225-1274)

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**There will be a SPUC branch meeting in the parish hall this Monday at 7.30pm. All welcome**

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**Next weekend's second collection** will be for the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC)'s annual White Flower Appeal. Your donations will help SPUC continue its campaign to defend the right to life from the moment of conception until natural death.

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## Last Week's Finance

**Collection:** £872 (of which £120 was G/A)

**Standing orders:** £894 @ 31/12 (of which £746 was G/A)

**Attendance:** 679

*Thank you*

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## St Mary's bank account details for online donations

*Bank:* Lloyds

*A/c name:* St Mary of Annun Lough RCP

*Sort code:* 30-95-21

*A/c no:* 00481028

Alternatively, scan this QR code to donate securely from your phone

